

REMARKS

Attorney for Applicant has carefully reviewed the outstanding Office Action on the above-identified application. Applicant has amended the application, as set forth herein, and respectfully submit that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Attachment A shows the claims marked as amended.

Applicant has amended the Specification to address some informalities noticed in a review thereof. Attachment B contains the amended specification marked to show the amendment.

Applicant has added FIG. 5, to show a first loop that is adjustable in size. Applicant respectfully submits that it thereby overcomes the objection to the drawings.

Applicant has amended claim 2 to address the informality noted in the Office Action. Applicant has amended claim 20 and added new claim 22.

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claim 1 is patentable over Fontes, et al. Fonte, et al. relates to a security lock for snowboards, skateboards, skiis and the like. The lock includes a member that is attached the object to be locked, e.g. a snowboard, in any suitable manner, such as by bolting, and a cable can be extended from the member to extend about a stationary object. FIG. 6 of Fontes, et al. shows the lock attached to a snowboard binding. Reference numeral 97 points to a snowboard boot bracket, not a strap.

Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 1, on the other hand, does not require permanent attachment of the locking device to the object being locked. Rather, first and second loops are fit about ends of an elongate object to be locked, and they are attached together by a strap. A lock is used to fix the size of the second loop and to secure it to a desired location along the strap. Applicant respectfully submits that Fontes, et al. teaches no such structure, and that Applicant's invention, as claimed in claim 1 is patentable thereover.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20, as amended, is patentable over the combination of Pitts and MacDonald, taken either alone or in combination. Both of the devices disclosed in Pitts and MacDonald include rigid members that extend about a surfboard. Such devices are cumbersome to use and store, and could mar or damage the surface of the surfboard.

Applicant's locking apparatus, as claimed in amended claim 20, on the other hand, includes an adjustable loop formed of a flexible material. The benefits of such a construction are clear, and are not taught or suggested by the references. Further, new claim 22 includes the limitation that the tether strap is formed of an excess length of the flexible material that forms the adjustable loop. This structure is likewise patentable over the cited references.

Applicant notes that claims 2-4 were indicated as allowable. Applicant further notes that claims 5-19 have been allowed.

All issues raised in the Office Action are believed to be addressed. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a

Notice thereof. No new matter is believed to have been added. Re-examination is requested and favorable action solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT "A"

2. (Amended) The device of claim 1 further comprising a tether extending from the locking device for [the strap and] attaching an elongate object to a fixed object.

20. (Amended) A locking apparatus for a surfboard comprising:

an adjustable loop formed of a flexible material for extending about a surfboard positioned between fins extending from the surfboard and a wide middle portion of the surfboard;

a lock for fixing the size of the adjustable loop;

a tether strap interconnected with the adjustable loop; and

a stopper interconnected with the tether strap;

whereby, the stopper is positionable within a car window and the window can be raised against the tether strap to retain the stopper within the vehicle to lock the [elongate object] surfboard to [the vehicle] a car.

ATTACHMENT "B"

In the Specification, on page 5, please amend the second paragraph to read as follows:

As shown in **FIGS. 1-3**, the adjustable locking strap of the present invention, generally indicated at **10**, includes a first loop **20** which can be a fixed size or can be adjustable in size. See FIG. 5 which shows loop 120 adjustable in size by means of a lock 150 extending through apertures in strap 130 and loop 120. Loop **20** can be positioned about one end of an elongated object such as surfboard **9**, and is sized to fit about an end of the object but is not large enough to slide over the central portion of the object. A first end of a strap **30** is interconnected with the loop **20** in any means known in the art, for example, by stitching **31** for securing the strap **30** to loop **20**. The strap **30** may include a plurality of apertures **32** along the second end thereof.

In the Specification, on page 6, please amend the second paragraph to read as follows:

As shown in detail in **FIG. [3] 4**, tether strap **60** can be positioned to extend within a vehicle **70** as defined by window **72** and frame **74**. When the window **72** is closed the stopper **64** is retained within the vehicle **70** to effectively lock the locking strap **10** and the elongate object to the vehicle **70**. The stopper **64** can be retained on the tether **60** by means of a rivet **66**. Further, a storage bag **68** can be interconnected by strap **69** to the rivet **66** and to the tether **60**. The storage bag can **68** be used for storing the adjustable locking strap **10** when not in use.